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LETTER

TO A

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GENERAL OFFICER

K. L. N.  
IN THE

ARMY of the ALLIES,

In respect to the BEHAVIOUR of the *BLUES*;  
in which are mentioned various Circumstances relat-  
ing to the late Battle of DETTINGEN, never  
hitherto publish'd.

WITH

Another Genuine LETTER from a Lieutenant in the *BLUES*  
to his Brother; in which the whole Affair of their CONDUCT  
is discussed, and the Honour of the Regiment fully vindicated.

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L O N D O N:

Printed for M. COOPER, at the *Globe* in *Pater-*  
*noster-Row.* 1743.

( Price Six-pence. )



LETTER

TO

GENERAL OFFICER

IN THE

ARMY of the ALLIES

Respect to the French Army of the ALLIES  
in which are mentioned various Circumstances relat-  
ing to the late Battle of WATERLOO, never  
before published.

W L R

Another General, J. B. D. R. from a Lieutenant in the ALLIES  
to his Honor, in which the whole Affair of their Conduct  
is detailed, and the Honor of the Regiment fully vindicated.

L O N D O N

Printed for M. COOPER, at the Glass in Pall-mall.  
1748. (Price Six-pence.)





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A

## L E T T E R

TO A CERTAIN

## GENERAL OFFICER

In the ARMY of the ALLIES.

S I R,



OUR known Character in the World, the Rank you hold in the Army, your Profession as a Soldier, engage me to address you on a Subject which is now become a Matter of very great Importance. The Victory at *Dettingen*, so glorious in itself, so happy in its Consequences; this Victory, Sir, that crowns the King with Laurels, that does so much Honour to the *British* Nation, that has given such a Lustre to the Arms of the Allies; this Victory, I say, by some extraordinary Malignity in some People's Tempers, is made the Subject of Obliquy and Reproach, on a Body of Men, who, if I am rightly informed, have been so far from deserving the Treatment they have met with, that they have as just a Title to share in the Reputation resulting from that memorable Action, as any Body of Troops that were that Day in the Field.

I should begin with acquainting you how this strange Report arose, but the deep Sense I have of the Injury done to the Regiment of *Blue-Guards*, hinders me from reporting any Thing that may stain the Credit of others, without having perhaps any better Foundation than the Calumny, I should so gladly see refuted. All therefore that I chuse to say upon this Head, is, that within a few Days after we had the News of that great and happy Event, it was whisper'd about this Town that some of our Troops had not done their Duty, and it was soon after said that a certain Regiment had refused to advance, when commanded so to do by the Field Marshal Earl of *Stair*. After this Murmur had continued for some time, the Public was taught to believe that this certain Regiment was the



the *Blues*; and as Stories of this kind never fail of Reception amongst ill-natur'd, malicious People, abundance of Circumstances were quickly tack'd to it, in which your Name, Sir, was, I dare say, very unjustly mentioned.

I need not observe, especially to a Person of your Rank, how deeply such a Reflection wounds the Characters of Gentlemen whose Credit and Preferment depend on their military Reputation. I need not insist on the mighty Difficulty that is found in wiping off such an Imputation, however unjust and ill-founded. You know, Sir, much better than I, the Nature of these Things, the Value of martial Credit, and the Dread that Gentlemen in the Army have of falling under Censures of this kind. You will also, on the slightest Reflection, comprehend how sensibly Reports of this nature must wound the Peace of many worthy Families, who have Relations in this Regiment, and whose sincere Joy for that noble Repulse of the choicest Troops of *France*, was not a little damp'd by Tales of such Discredit to their Friends. Neither can you wonder, that, provok'd with such injurious Circumstances, they endeavour'd all that lay in their Power to search after and sift out the Truth.

With this View they read with Attention all the Accounts that were publish'd at Home or Abroad, without being able to discover in any of them the least ground for this scandalous Rumour. The *German*, the *Dutch*, and the *English* Accounts mention not a Word of it; and, which is still more strange, there are no Footsteps to be found of any such Thing in the *French* Relations. It is true that after the foreign *Gazettes* had time to take Things at rebound from hence, some Paragraphs that look'd that way were to be found in them, and at last the Thing was carried so far, as to attribute that Victory solely to the Firmness of the *Austrians*, who were said to have fired, or to have threatened to fire, on some *English* Regiments which fell into Confusion.

This, Sir, was one very bad Effect of the Circulation, without any Authority that can be yet trac'd out, of the Tale of the *Blues* refusing to advance; a Tale which, I am told, is absolutely false in itself, and known so to be by the whole Army. I must however admit that we have heard in this Town of some private Letters, in which this was mentioned as a Fact, and as a Fact which had drawn upon the Regiment some Marks of R—l Displeasure. But so very private have these Letters been, that, with the utmost Industry that could be used, no-body hitherto could get a Sight of one of them. This indeed I do not wonder at, because whoever was capable of so base a Contrivance, either with a Design to injure that Corps, or to misrepresent the Fact in order to take the Blame off any other, would be sure to carry the Matter as secretly and as darkly as possible. Truth and Justice love the Light, but Fraud and Malice cannot bear so much as Twilight; and hence proceeds that impenetrable Obscurity, which at present covers the treacherous Authors of so black a Forgery.

But now, Sir, give me Leave to enquire how far this Regiment has a Right to some Reparation. If there had been any Truth at all in this Fact, I am thoroughly satisfied no such Accounts could have been procured, as those that are to be met with at the Duke of *Newcastle's*; and which, out of pure Respect to Justice, are communicated to every Gentleman that desires to see them. But how narrow, how confined, how inadequate is this Representation of Truth, to the Methods that have been taken to spread this Slander? The latter has been the common Topic of all Companies, the Subject of saucy Epigrams handed about, and the Matter of common News-Papers; while the former has only disabus'd a few Men of Sense and Integrity, who were desirous of enquiring into the bottom of Things; and better pleas'd to find an ample Justification of so great a Body of Men,











Men, than the gentlest Confirmation of so unlucky a Story. I infer from this that as there is already Evidence of the Calumny, this Evidence should be so diffused as to answer all the Purposes of a Vindication; by reaching the Hands of all who have met with the Reflection; or be at least put into so public a Canal, as that every Friend to the *Blues* might, upon hearing this malicious Fable trump'd up, refer any Man to a certain and solid Refutation. This, I say, I think reasonable, and so indeed does everybody here, even such as are fond of trumpeting the Calumny, who protest at every Turn their Abhorrence of a Lye, and declare themselves ready to retract it whenever they shall see a Letter from Field Marshal *Stair*, or from you, Sir, which shall justify the Conduct of these Gentlemen. I tell you nothing, Sir, but the naked Truth, and what I persuade myself many of your Correspondents here must have told you before, for this is a Matter that has been pretty much canvassed.

I dare appeal to Custom, as well as the Reason of Things, for the Propriety of the Conduct, I am endeavouring to recommend. There is nothing more frequent than such flying Stories in great Armies; and therefore nothing has been more usual than for General Officers to interpose upon such Occasions, and to do Justice to the Parties injured, by an authentic Declaration of the Truth; nay, in some Cases, where Generals have been partial, great Corps have demanded and had Justice done them against Generals themselves, and the like has sometimes happen'd in the Cases of particular Persons. After the Defeat at *Blenheim*, Marshal *Tallard* threw some Reflections upon the Conduct of the Household Troops, but they were far from bearing this with Patience, for they not only took the Liberty of vindicating themselves from this Aspersions, but they even rescued their own Reputation at the Expence of the Marshal's, by shewing that if they committed any Error, it was either in Consequence of his Orders, or from the following his Example. In King *William's* Time such Reparations were frequent amongst us, and in Queen *Anne's* Time, there is the famous Case of General *Wald*, who oblig'd the *Gazette* to retract a Relation which did not do him Justice as to the Affair of *Wynendale*, which was thought to be so right a Measure in him, that it was confirmed afterwards by the Thanks of the House of Commons. If therefore such Steps have been always thought right at Home and Abroad, and even when the greatest Generals have been concerned in the Event of them, I can never conceive it reasonable that the *Blues* should sit still with their Fingers in their Mouths, and after standing so long the Fire of *French* Batteries, be exposed to a second and more galling Fire from malicious and envious Sycophants.

The World must allow that from the Nature of the Thing, a Soldier's Honour must be tenderer than any other Person's, not only the Figure he makes in the World, but his Bread depends upon it; and, which is still more, the Credit and Reputation of his Family in succeeding Times. It is the Thoughts of his being in his Country's Service, and thereby meriting the Praise of his Countrymen, that makes a great Part of a Soldier's Pay. In the present Case, does any Man think that Eighteen-pence or Two Shillings is a proper Satisfaction for the risque of *Englishmen's* Lives, independent of the Chance of Preferment, which must be the Reward of Merit? It is clear therefore that to deprive them of their Reputation, is to deprive them of a Recompence they have as much a Right to as their Pay; and if so, they must, in this Case, have a Right to the Reparation of Damages, not only as Soldiers, but as *British* Subjects, who never can receive any Wrong without having a Remedy in their Power. If you demand, Sir, what that Remedy is, I say it is an authentic Declaration that they have been wrong'd, and this made so public, as entirely to wipe off the Reflection, and set them right in every reasonable Man's Opinion. This, Sir, is the Remedy they have a Right to, and a  
Remedy



Remedy which all the thinking Part of Mankind here apprehended ought to have been applied long ago. Why it was not, is out of my Province to enquire.

What Views may be answered by giving a Currency to these Reports about the *Blues* is not easily foreseen. But this may be truly affirmed, that by this Report the Discourse of the Town has been diverted from some other Subjects which might have given People, concerned in them, not a little Mortification. It was for Instance, said (I believe upon the Credit too of Letters) that some Neglects there were in the Contractors which occasioned the Scarcity at *Aschaffembourg*, which tho' it did not, yet might have produced very unlucky Consequences, as it did many Uneasinesses both at Home and Abroad; yet this was suddenly buried in Oblivion, and People forgot to examine or inquire how the best paid Troops in the World came to want not one but many Dinners, and this too with the King at their Head.

But those who have been curious as to the Circumstances of our Campaign in *Germany*, have been informed, that a considerable Corps of Infantry who formed the Rear were idle, and at the same Time safe Spectators (which was more than was ever yet said of the *Blues*) of the Battle, and tho' one of the General Officers who commanded them was for their advancing to take the *French* in Flank, yet in that he was controlled, and those Troops had no Share whatsoever in the Engagement. I do not say this was wrong, or that the Officer who was for Fighting was in the right; I only observe, it was strange that these and several other Stories of a like kind that I could mention, blew over, and nothing was talk'd of but this, for which there never was the least Foundation.

We have heard in respect to the *French* Troops that their King has published an Order, by which all Persons are forbid to speak disrespectfully to or of the *French* Guards, on Account of their Behaviour in the late Action of *Dettingen*. I shall not pretend to discuss the Point, how far their Conduct was, or was not blameable, but this I am clear in, that let their Conduct be what it would, it was right in their Court to take Notice of it, and not to pass by the Aspersions thrown upon them, as if neither they nor their Reputations were worth minding. Men who can support with Patience this silent Contempt must be fit for any Trade rather than of War, and ought to be called any thing but ——— Soldiers.

It is very true that even the Corps, of which I am speaking, may alledge that the Accounts in the *Gazettes* say nothing to their Prejudice, and that such others as have been transmitted authentically, are in their Favour; that in the former it is said all the Cavalry endured a severe Cannonading with the utmost Intrepidity, and fought bravely afterwards; in the latter, that the *Blues* behaved as well as any of the Cavalry, but this does not clear their Reputation; to effect that, there must be a Reparation as signal as the Affront.

You will pardon, Sir, this Liberty, which Regard to Truth, Respect for the *Blues*, and Concern in some Measure for your Honour, (as your Name had been mentioned in the Dispute) engaged me to take, and believe me,

S I R,

Your sincere Well-wisher, and

Obedient Humble Servant,

August 11, 1743.

N. L.



*A Letter from a Lieutenant in the BLUES to his Brother; in which the whole Affair of their CONDUCT is discussed, and the Honour of the Regiment fully vindicated.*

*Hanaw Camp, July 25, 1743, O. S.*

DEAR BROTHER,



Send this by the very first Mail, in Answer to yours, which informed me that many disgraceful Reports and scandalous Aspersions were spread in *London*, and generally credited, relating to the Behaviour of our Regiment, in the late Action at *Dettingen*; indeed you tell me that the whole Load of Infamy is thrown upon the Men, for it is universally said that all the Officers behaved extremely well, and us'd all the Means they cou'd to animate them, which seems to be some sort of Consolation to you; but we shall not let it rest here, for as no Body of Men in the Field shew'd greater Marks of Bravery and Courage than our Regiment, we think every Officer is bound in Honour and Conscience to endeavour to wipe off this Ignominy, and justify the Character of our Men. When we were order'd to the Banks of the *Main*, to cover the Infantry while they were forming, as I told you in my last, we sustain'd the severest Cannonade that ever happen'd in any Action, from three large Batteries; and tho' we had several Men and Horses kill'd and wounded in this Post, and fully expected to be all tore in Pieces, we stood firm and immoveable, like a senseless Bastion, to be batter'd for upwards of two Hours: And this Ground we maintain'd till properly ordered off for other Services; and we appeal to all the World, whether this inactive defenceless State was not the most disagreeable Situation Men could be in? Can it then, upon any just Grounds, be suppos'd, that Men who behav'd so intrepidly would refuse to Charge? surely No; for that was greatly preferable, because infinitely less dangerous, than the Post we were in; and we all look'd upon this Order, instead of refusing to obey it, as a sort of Delivery from immediate Death; and when General *Honeywood* led us on to the Charge, I solemnly declare, that our Men advanced with the highest Spirits, most undaunted Resolution, and greatest Alacrity; I own at first we were obliged to retreat, but this Accident was not owing to the Cowardice of our Men, but to their impetuous Courage, for we advanc'd too fast and too far, so found ourselves, with a few more Squadrons, oppos'd to the whole Wing of the *French* Horse, interlin'd with Foot, without any Support: Were we then to throw away our Lives, wantonly, without doing the least Service to the Cause? surely No. We acted prudently, wheel'd about, soon form'd again, fought bravely, and did great Execution. This, I do assure you, is a fair, true, and impartial Detail of the Conduct and Behaviour of the *Blues*, and you know I can't deceive; therefore I desire you would publish this Account as much as possible, and vouch it in my Name, wherever you have an Opportunity, for we all have the highest Resentment of this scandalous Abuse, and declare whoever were the Authors of these injurious, false Reports, are lying Scoundrels, and dare not attest what they've said, to the Face of any one Man in the Regiment. But I must still go on a little further, for this Affair galls us to the Quick. We had Advice of it about ten Days before I received your Letter, and much to the same Purpose; upon which Colonel *Beake*, Major

*Jenkins,*



Jenkinson, and Sir James Chamberlayne, who commanded the three Squadrons of our Regiment, immediately waited on Lord Stair, and shew'd him what Accounts they had received; he seem'd greatly surpriz'd, approv'd of their Behaviour, and express'd his Concern at such false and scandalous Aspersions, and promis'd that he would write to England by the first Post, in order to put a Stop to such groundless Reports, and would take every Opportunity to vindicate the Honour of the Regiment; but at the same time he did declare, that he went to the Head of a certain Regiment, that did behave much in the same manner as had been reported of the Blues, which probably gave Foundation, through Mistake, for these Reflections; but this Regiment must be Nameless, unless we find it absolutely necessary to clear up the Reputation of ours. General Honeywood, has been likewise acquainted with the whole Affair, and does declare he led us on to the Charge, and that our Men behav'd as well, and went on as boldly and cheerfully, as any Horse ever did; that those Aspersions are false, scandalous, and malicious; and that he would write forthwith to Mr. Pelham, in Justification of our Conduct and Behaviour. This also came to the Knowledge of the Duke of Richmond, who finding it upon Enquiry to be absolutely false in every Instance, wrote immediately to the Duke of Newcastle, to acquaint him that all those scandalous Reports concerning the Behaviour of the Blues, which prevail'd in London, were entirely without Foundation; and desired his Grace would do what was in his Power to prevent their gaining Credit. But perhaps all that I have said, as I am a Party concerned, may not be sufficient to convince some prejudiced People, though I am assur'd all my Friends will believe me. I only desire you would send such Persons to the Duke of Newcastle's, where any Gentleman may have a fair Account of the whole Affair. We are determin'd to vindicate the Character of our Regiment, and therefore your Letter will be shewn to Lord Stair to-morrow, to

Tours, &c.

G. B.



